THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) ICMR are taking appropriate action in the matter.

Steps for Eradication of Leprosy

3912. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate number of leprosy patients in the country;

(b) whether steps are being taken to eradicate leprosy;

• (c) if so, the year by winch leprosy is likely to be eradicated;

(d) the steps taken for the proper treatment, after treatment training and then rehabilitation of leprosy patients; and

(e) the details thereof.'

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) It is estimated that there are about nine (9) lakhs leprosy patients in the country.

(b) and (c) Government of India have launched a National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP) with the objective of elimination of leprosy by the year 2000 AD. by reducing the incidence to less than 1 per 10000 population.

(d) and (e) Under NLEP antileprosy treatment, reconstructive surgery and deformity and ulcer care services are provided to all the leprosy patients free of cost. A Pilot Rehabilitation Project has been formulated which *inter-alia* envisages vocational training anil initial one time financial support for those needing rehabilitation.

Financial Assistance to Medical conferences

3913. SHRI RAM RATAN RAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the names and number of medical conferences of national and state level to whom financial assistance was given during the last three years;

(b) what is the total amount of assistance given in this regard; and

(c) whether Government have avaluated the utility of such conferences and such grants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House

Closing Down the C.G.H.S. Dispeasary at Indcrpuri, New Delhi

3914. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE. Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have suddenly decided to close down the CGHS dispensary located at Inderpuri, New Delhi 10012;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are aware that it will cause great inconveniance and hardship to nummerous Central Government employees, their dependents and to the Central Government pensioners; and

(d) if so, whether Government will rescind their decision in the matter?'

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences, Wardha

3915. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of irregularities have taken place in the Pre-Medical Admission Test Results of 1994 of the Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences, Savagram, District Wardha in Maharashtra which is financed by Government;

(b) whether a number of students and their parents have complained about the irregularities;